

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 8-11 are sought to be amended. Upon entering this amendment, Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with 1, 10, and 11 being the independent claims. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Based on the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0030781 to Bleeker et al. ("Bleeker"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1, 10, and 11 now recite arranging the patterning arrays in different predetermined positions in an object plane to allow the patterned sub-beams to arrive at a pupil plane from a different angle. Thus, the combined image that is projected onto a substrate is formed from overlapping of the individual patterned sub-beams, so that it has a high numerical aperture.

Bleeker does not teach or suggest at least these features of claims 1, 10, and 11.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 10, and 11. Also, at least based on their dependency from claim 1, claims 2-9 should be allowed.

Conclusion

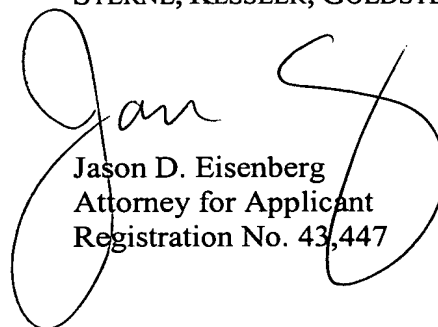
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding

Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,447

Date: 12/29/05
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
SKGF_DC1:468902.1